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## NEWS ITEMS

We learn from the St. Louis *Globe-Democrat* (February 20) that the resignation of Dr. William Trelease, director of the Missouri Botanical Garden, has been accepted, with regret, by the board of trustees of that institution. Dr. Trelease gives as his reason for retirement, the necessity of greater leisure for research work. Since 1889, when he was appointed director of the Garden, at the suggestion of Asa Gray, Dr. Trelease has made the Missouri Botanical Garden one of the most important in the world. No successor has, as yet, been appointed.

Dr. H. C. Cowles, associate professor of ecology at the University of Chicago, has been elected second vice-president of the Chicago Academy of Sciences.

The London *Times* states that in the old parish church of St. Mary, Teddington, a tablet has recently been dedicated to the memory of the Rev. Stephen Hales, D.D., a former vicar of the parish and one of the most distinguished men of science of the eighteenth century. A number of eminent living *savants* have for a long time been endeavoring to discover his burial place, in order to preserve his memory, and at length the stone recording his death was found in the floor of the porch of the church with nearly the whole of the lettering obliterated. The new tablet has been placed on the wall of the west porch beneath the tower of the old church, and bears the following inscription:

"Beneath is the grave of Stephen Hales. The epitaph, now partly obliterated, but recovered from a record of 1795, is here inscribed by the piety of certain botanists, A.D. 1911. 'Here is interred the body of Stephen Hales, D.D., Clerk of the Closet to the Princess of Wales, who was minister of this parish 51 years. He died 14th January, 1761, in the 84th year of his age.'"

Mr. Francis Darwin has written for the current number of the *Parish Magazine* an interesting account of Dr. Hales, in the course of which he says: "Stephen Hales has been called the 'father of physiology,' and he deserves this title in regard both to animals and plants. His experiments on the blood pressure

of animals are second only to Harvey's work on the circulation. In the domain of plant physiology he is equally great. He treated the manifestations of life as things to be weighed, measured and analyzed in the laboratory. It is this point of view that gives his work so modern a character and entitles him to be considered one of the founders of a rational science of biology. Although he loved science for its own sake, it is equally clear that he was dominated by a permanent desire to use his knowledge for the benefit of his fellow-creatures."

It is a pleasure to report that on Wednesday the twenty-eighth of February, at the one hundred and twenty-fifth anniversary of the University of Pittsburgh, the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws was conferred on Nathaniel Lord Britton.

A new botanical museum for the University of Christiania, Norway, is being erected and will be ready for occupancy in the autumn of 1913.

Dr. C. N. Jensen, fellow in plant pathology, Cornell University, has been appointed professor of botany and plant pathology in Utah Agricultural College and Experiment Station and entered on his duties on February 1.

We learn from *Science* that Professor F. O. Grover of Oberlin College "discovered several unknown plants and extended the known distribution of other species," during last summer's work at Monhegan Island, Maine. Near Moosehead Lake, *Carex crinita Portereii*, was collected for the first time since the early seventies.

According to the New York *Evening Post* (March 2) Miss Helen Ashurst Choate has been promoted from an assistant to instructor in botany at Smith College.

Dr. and Mrs. N. L. Britton, accompanied by Mr. J. F. Cowell of the Buffalo Botanic Garden, sailed for eastern Cuba, on March second, to continue botanical explorations in the vicinity of the Sierra Maestra.